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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION REPORT - MIDDLE EAST - RENEWED TENSION  
UZBEKISTAN ARREST OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES  
PARIS - FRIDAY, MAY 20, 2005

(A) SUBJECTS COVERED IN TODAY'S REPORT:

1. MIDDLE EAST - RENEWED TENSION
2. UZBEKISTAN
3. ARREST OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES

B) SUMMARY OF COVERAGE:

WHILE EUROPEAN ISSUES DOMINATE FRONT PAGES AND EDITORIALS ON D-9 BEFORE THE VOTE ON THE REFERENDUM, THE MIDDLE EAST AND RENEWED REGIONAL TENSION ELICIT COMMENTARY FROM CATHOLIC LA CROIX (SEE PART C) WHICH ALSO CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY UMP REPRESENTATIVE PIERRE LELLOUCHE: "BECAUSE BILATERAL TALKS ARE NOT PROGRESSING, WE HAVE PROPOSED NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM BOTH PARLIAMENTS UNDER THE AEGIS OF NATO WHO WILL SERVE AS FACILITATOR. THE FIRST MEETING WILL BE IN JUNE IN NAPLES. THE ADVANTAGE OF AN INTERVENTION UNDER THE NATO STRUCTURE IS THAT NATO IS COMPRISED OF AMERICANS AND EUROPEANS. IDEALLY WE NEED A STRONG EURO-AMERICAN INITIATIVE TO BRING THE TWO SIDES BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AND THE TABA AGREEMENT."

IN HIS WEEKLY WRAP-UP COLUMN IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO IVAN RIOUFOL COMMENTS BRIEFLY ON THE GUANTANAMO KORAN INCIDENT, COMMENDING NEWSWEEK FOR ITS RETRACTION, ADDING: "THE USE OF THIS SOLE PRETEXT (FOR DEMONSTRATIONS) PROVES TO WHAT EXTENT THE AMERICANS ARE HATED IN THE MUSLIM WORLD BECAUSE OF THEIR CLUMSINESS IN IRAQ, WHERE THEIR INTERVENTION IS NOT YET BEARING FRUIT."

THE CRISIS IN UZBEKISTAN LEADS BORIS EISENBAUM, AN EXPERT ON POST-SOVIET STRATEGY, TO PEN AN OP-ED IN LE FIGARO ON THE "BATTLE FOR INFLUENCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA." (SEE PART C)

LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE ANALYZES THE ARREST OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES IN THE U.S., "WHICH EMBARRASSES THE AMERICAN AUTHORITIES." (SEE PART C)

THE ECONOMIC PRESS REPORTS EXTENSIVELY ON A REQUEST FROM AIRBUS TO FINANCE THEIR A350. ACCORDING TO LES ECHOS "THE BRITISH WILL ANNOUNCE AT THE PARIS AIR SHOW THAT THEY WILL ADVANCE 582 MILLION EUROS. FRANCE IS ALSO CONSIDERING A SIMILAR REQUEST FROM AIRBUS." ALL REPORTS INDICATE THAT "WASHINGTON IMMEDIATELY REACTED TO THE AIRBUS REQUEST WITH A THREAT OF GOING BEFORE THE WTO." LIBERATION'S SHORT ITEM IS TITLED: "AIRBUS ANNOYS WASHINGTON."

(C) SUPPORTING TEXT/BLOCK QUOTES:

MIDDLE EAST - RENEWED TENSION

"EXTREMIST PRESSURE"

FRANCOIS ERNENWEIN IN CATHOLIC LA CROIX (05/20): "SHARON'S WITHDRAWAL PLAN WAS A SHOW OF GREAT AMBITION AND COURAGE. SINCE THEN A TRUCE HAS SETTLED IN THE PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES. THIS IS WHY THE RENEWED TENSION THAT HAS ERUPTED SINCE WEDNESDAY IN GAZA MUST BE TAKEN VERY SERIOUSLY. BECAUSE IT COULD BE USED AS A PRETEXT BY ALL THOSE WHO FEAR THAT PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST HARMS THEIR STRATEGY OF THE WORST. THE AURA OF HAMAS BEGAN WITH THE CRISIS AND THE END OF THE CRISIS THREATENS IT. BECAUSE VIOLENCE IS ITS OXYGEN, A PEACEFUL OUTCOME COULD SMOTHER IT. ON THE ISRAELI SIDE NOT EVERYONE WANTS TO SEE AN AUTONOMOUS PALESTINIAN STATE. AGAINST THIS EXTREMIST PRESSURE FROM BOTH SIDES, WHO PROMOTE A POLICY OF THE WORST, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO WORK TO SAVE THE PEACE."

UZBEKISTAN

"AFTER ANDIJAN, WHAT IS THE WAY OUT OF THE CRISIS?"  
BORIS EISENBAUM IN RIGHT-OF-CENTER LE FIGARO (05/20): "THE EVENTS IN ANDIJAN ARE PART OF THE POWER PLAY FOR INFLUENCE BETWEEN THE U.S. AND RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA AND THE CAUCASUS. THE WAVE OF DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONS IN FORMER SOVIET REPUBLICS, SUPPORTED AND FINANCED BY AMERICAN FOUNDATIONS, IS PERCEIVED BY MOSCOW AS AN ADDITIONAL MEANS TO REDUCE THE KREMLIN'S

INFLUENCE. YET THIS DESTABILIZATION OF UZBEKISTAN DOES NOT SERVE THE INTERESTS OF THE U.S., WHICH HAS BEEN SUPPORTING PRESIDENT KARIMOV. THIS IS WHY THE EVENTS IN ANDIJAN REPRESENT A THORNY PROBLEM FOR THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION AND UNDERSCORE THE LIMITATIONS OF ITS POLICY FOR PROMOTING DEMOCRACY IN THE REGION."

#### ARREST OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES

"ARREST OF LUIS POSADA CARRILES IN MIAMI EMBARRASSES U.S."  
ERIC LESER IN LEFT-OF-CENTER LE MONDE (05/20): "THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION WHICH IS WAGING A MERCILESS WAR AGAINST TERRORISM AND A POLICY OF UNFLINCHING DETERMINATION TOWARDS THE CUBAN REGIME IS FACING A DILEMMA. TO ACCEPT CARRILES'S DEMAND FOR ASYLUM MEANS HARBORING A TERRORIST; TO EXTRADITE HIM TO VENEZUELA AS CASTRO HAS ASKED MEANS GRANTING A VICTORY TO TWO ADVERSARIES OF THE U.S. THERE IS ANOTHER PROBLEM OF A LEGAL NATURE: WASHINGTON IS NOT IN THE HABIT OF EXTRADITING INMATES TOWARDS CUBA OR `INTERMEDIARY' COUNTRIES. CARRILES ENTERED THE U.S. ILLEGALLY, BUT WAS NEVER BOTHERED BY FEDERAL AGENTS UNTIL HE GAVE A PRESS CONFERENCE AND AN INTERVIEW TO THE MIAMI HERALD. WASHINGTON MAY WELL TRY TO FIND A PRETEXT TO KEEP CARRILES IN JAIL. CONSIDERING THE LITTLE SUPPORT HE IS GETTING FROM EXILED CUBANS IN FLORIDA THIS SHOULD NOT BE TOO DIFFICULT." WOLFF